



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held March 13, 2007, the Board took the following action:

10

The following item was called up for consideration:

The Chief Administrative Officer's recommendation to approve an appropriation adjustment for Fiscal Year 2006-07 Adopted Budget in amount of \$1.7 million, to increase salaries and employee benefits for the Probation Department to fund the cost of 90 positions for juvenile halls and camps, human resources, laundry and custodial duties, program evaluation, information systems, manual writing and strategic planning, fully offset with a corresponding increase in property taxes; and approve interim ordinance authority for Probation Department for 90 positions and authorize the Chief Probation Officer to fill these positions.

Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, Dave Davies, Chief Deputy, and Robert Smythe, Deputy Director, Administrative Services, Probation Department, responded to questions posed by the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"This Board has allocated increased funding to the Probation Department to address recommendations by the Department of Justice and the two audits to improve the juvenile halls and the overall programs and management structure, respectively. As we continue to increase personnel in the Probation Department on the juvenile detention side, it is also important to evaluate the needs in the field side, including caseloads and effective public safety programs."

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to include a review and recommendations on the Probation Department's needs relative to field services, including caseloads and effective public safety programs.

(Continued on Page 2)

Further, Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“This Board has been on a path of providing much-needed funding to our Probation Department. We have given the Department a total of \$54 million ongoing and approximately \$16 million in one time new funding. Most of this funding is in response to the Department of Justice recommendation to improve our Juvenile Halls and Camps where rehabilitation is intended to occur.

“While I am pleased with the funding we have given to our Probation Department, I remain concerned about field caseload levels, primarily for adults but for juveniles as well. The main mission of the Probation Department is community protection, and the real test of whether this mission is being accomplished is the Department’s ability to closely monitor probationers to ensure that they are not out of custody free to reoffend. With an average adult caseload level of 175, I find it hard to imagine that our adult probationers are being monitored very closely. I think we can do better in this area.”

Therefore, Supervisor Knabe made a motion that the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to report back during Budget Deliberations on ways to fund and/or improve the field caseload levels in the Probation Department.

Supervisor Molina made a suggestion that Supervisor Knabe’s motion be amended to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review more than caseload levels, but also the activities undertaken during and in between their individual caseload visits. Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Molina’s suggestion.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Chief Administrative Officer’s attached recommendation was adopted and the Chief Administrative Officer was directed to:

1. Include a review and recommendations on the Probation Department’s needs relative to field services, including caseloads and effective public safety programs; and

(Continued on Page 3)

10 (Continued)

2. Report back during Budget Deliberations on:

- Ways to fund and/or improve the field caseload levels in the Probation Department; and
- Activities undertaken during and in between their individual caseload visits.

06031307_10

Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Chief Probation Officer